GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3224
ANSWERED ON:21.03.2007
ASSESSMENT OF SECOND LINE TREATMENT
Lagadapati Shri Rajagopal

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any assessment has been made by NACO about number of people who have been put on a higher level of drugs i.e. second line of treatment of HIV/AIDS in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(c) whether NACO is providing ART to patients who are on a first line of treatment;

(d) if so, whether new and improved drugs are not available in the Government hospitals and the patients have to buy on their own;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor;

(f) whether the Government may provide these drugs in NACO`s III Phase; and (g) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE (SMT. PANABAKA LAKSHMI)

(a) to (e) : There are an estimated 5.2 million Persons Living with HIV/AIDS (PLHAs) in the coontry. At any point of time, based on their immunity status (CD4 Count less than 200/cu mm), nearly 10% PLHAs require Anti-retroviral Treatment (ART).

Government of India took a policy decision in 2004 to introduce provision of ART to eligible HIV/AIDS patients. Till date 107 ART Centres have been set up in medical colleges and district hospitals where more than 60,000 patients are getting treatment free of cost. Despite high level of drug adherence, it is estimated that 2-3% of the patients could develop resistance requiring improved drugs. Such second line drugs are ten times more expensive than first line drugs.

(f) & (g): Currently, the national treatment protocols do not provide for second line drugs. Under NACP-III, it is proposed to provide access to treatment to 3,40,000 adults and children.